

Message Text

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21

ACTION IO-10

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TRSE-00 OMB-01 AGR-10 HEW-06 HUD-02 INT-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02

AID-05 CEQ-01 COME-00 EB-07 EPA-04 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05

PM-04 OES-05 SS-15 FEA-01 /161 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6480

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TAGS: ECOSOC OCON

SUBJ: ECOSOC COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, BUILDING, AND PLANNING,
NINTH SESSION

1. SUMMARY: AGENDA ITEM (7) COORDINATION AND COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND ITEM (8) ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA. FUTURE COORDINATION OF UN BODIES IN THE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS FIELD WAS MUCH DISCUSSED BUT DID NOT RESULT IN ANY NEW SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO IMPROVE THE EXISTING SITUATION. THE COMMITTEE THOUGHT THAT THERE SHOULD BE A FOCAL POINT WITHIN THE UN ON THIS MATTER BUT THAT THE OPTIONS SHOULD BE KEPT OPEN PENDING HABITAT AND ECOSOC DECISIONS. A U.K. RESOLUTION ON THIS QUESTION WHICH CONTAINED A MILD ENDORSEMENT OF THE CENTER, WAS ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS. (SEE GENEVA 7973). THE COMMITTEE ADOPTED THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR ITS OCTOBER 1977 SESSION WITH RELUCTANCE AS EVENTS IN THE INTERVENING PERIOD ARE EXPECTED TO ALTER THE ARRANGEMENTS RELATING TO UN ACTIVITIES IN ITS FIELD.

2. ITEM (7): COORDINATION AND COOPERATION IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS.

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THE COMMITTEE REVIEWED PRESENT EFFORTS AND LISTENED TO STATEMENTS

MADE BY REPRESENTATIVES OF ECA, ECWA, ESCAP, WHO AND ILO. IT NOTED THAT THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED 15TH SESSION OF THE ACC AD-HOC INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON HOUSING AND URBANIZATION REQUESTED THE ACC TO CREATE A PERMANENT SUB-COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS TO MEET ANNUALLY (THE LAST MEETING OF THIS AD HOC GROUP WAS IN 1971) AND SHOULD ORGANIZE INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCES TO JOINTLY PLAN, REVIEW AND EVALUATE COMPREHENSIVE STUDIES ON SPECIFIC SUBJECTS, E.G., SLUM IMPROVEMENT AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE.

3. COMMITTEE NOTED: (I) THAT AN INCREASING NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM ARE OPERATING IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, SOMETIMES WITH OVERLAPPING MANDATES; (II) THAT THE PROGRAMMES OF THOSE ORGANIZATIONS ARE GROWING IN COMPLEXITY AND COMPREHENSIVENESS IN RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES THEY FACE IN THE AREAS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE SPECIALITIES; AND (III) THAT THERE WAS A LEGITIMATE DEMAND BY MEMBER STATES TO EFFECT ECONOMIES AND TO INCREASE THE IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES BY IMPROVING THEIR INTEGRATION AND CO-ORDINATION. THE COMMITTEE BELIEVED THAT THESE FACTS, TOGETHER WITH THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM, REQUIRE THE ADOPTION OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES LEADING TO THE CO-ORDINATION OF THE PROGRAMMES OF THESE BODIES. THE COMMITTEE NOTED SEVERAL SUCCESSFUL EXAMPLES OF CO-ORDINATION CITED IN ITS DOCUMENTS BUT STRESSED THAT ONLY CASUAL AND SPORADIC EFFORTS WERE BEING MADE IN THIS VITAL AREA AND EXPRESSED VIEW THAT CONVENTIONAL METHODS OF CO-OPERATION COULD NOT BE DEPENDED UPON AT A TIME WHEN THE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS SECTOR WAS IN THE PUBLIC EYE AND WHEN IT WAS LIKELY TO BECOME INCREASINGLY SO AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE HABITAT CONFERENCE.

4. SOME MEMBERS THOUGHT THAT IT WAS THE COMMITTEE ITSELF WHICH COULD MOST EFFECTIVELY SERVE AS THE CO-ORDINATING FOCAL POINT IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM. OTHERS BELIEVED THAT DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE FOUNDING OF THE COMMITTEE HAD, TO SOME EXTENT, BY-PASSED IT AND THAT, SINCE THE HABITAT CONFERENCE WAS EXPECTED TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE MOST EFFECTIVE INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE IN THIS FIELD TO ENSURE THE NECESSARY CO-ORDINATION AND INTEGRATION, IT WOULD BE PREMATURE FOR THE COMMITTEE TO INTERVENE IN THIS MATTER AT THIS TIME. THE COMMITTEE FELT IT SHOULD LEAVE ALL OPTIONS OPEN.

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5. THE COMMITTEE ALSO DISCUSSED THE ADVISABILITY OF RECOMMENDING THAT ECOSOC SHOULD AUTHORIZE THE CONVENING OF AN EXTRAORDINARY ONE-WEEK SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE IN LATE 1976 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HABITAT CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE HEAVY ECOSOC CALENDAR AND THE DIFFICULTIES SUCH A RECOMMENDATION WOULD CAUSE FOR MANY COUNTRIES, IT DECIDED TO DROP THIS RECOMMENDATION.

6. IN CONCLUDING ITS DISCUSSION OF ITEM 7, THE COMMITTEE ADOPTED A RESOLUTION, PROPOSED BY THE U.K. TO AFFIRM THE EXISTING AND DISTINCTIVE ROLE OF THE CENTRE FOR HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING, TO EXPRESS ITS DESIRE THAT PRIORITIES WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SHOULD BE ALTERED TO PROVIDE FOR AN INCREASED ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO THE FIELD OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, AND TO REQUEST THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL TO GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THE HISTORIC MANDATE AND ROLE PLAYED BY THE COMMITTEE AND THE CENTRE IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS WHEN IT COMES TO CARRY OUT ITS RESOLUTION 1914 (LVII) OF 16 DECEMBER 1974. ITEM 8.: ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA. BECAUSE OF NEW ECOSOC PROCEDURES THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE COMMITTEE HAD TO DECIDE THE AGENDA OF ITS NEXT SESSION, TWO YEARS AWAY. ITEM 4 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA CONCERNS THE REVIEW OF THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HABITAT CONFERENCE: THE COMMITTEE IS AT THE SAME TIME INTERESTED IN VANCOUVER BUT AFRAID OF WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO ITS MANDATE IN THE AFTERMATH. THE BRAZILIAN DELEGATE (FRAZAO) RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMITTEE REVIEW CLOSELY THE CONCLUSIONS EMERGING FROM THE 1976 GLOBAL MEETING ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THROUGHOUT THIS SESSION HE WAS KEEN TO EMPHASIZE INCREASED EXCHANGE OF EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE BETWEEN LDCS. ALL MEMBERS AGREED ON THE HIGHLY TENTATIVE NATURE OF THE AGENDA IT APPROVED. ABRAMS

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